


Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Lewis Daniel Johnson

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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Artist Stops Here To Sketch Statues And Buildings Connected With Lincoln

(Photo in Rotogravure Section)

L. D. Johnson, Pasadena, Calif., enthusiastic student of Abraham Lincoln, journalist, globe-trotter and artist, stopped off in Springfield last week to sketch several of the buildings with which Lincoln was connected during his life in this city, while enroute to New York state on a Lincoln tour. Mr. Johnson made free-hand sketches of Lincoln's home, the monument and the court house while visiting this city. He also obtained a picture of the Lincoln statue on the state house grounds to add to this collection.

On this, his latest Lincoln tour, Mr. Johnson visited Denver, Lincoln, Neb., Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago and Springfield as well as other smaller towns where he wishes to get sketches of Lincoln buildings and statues.

Mr. Johnson has crossed the ocean ten times and has studied art with some of the most famous artists in America and England, including Miss Kent-Welsh, the famous English artist whose specialty was horses. Johnson was connected with several famous circuses for many years following this study, doing commercial art work on horses. He has also worked for Buffalo Bill in the same line.

For many years Mr. Johnson followed the newspaper life, working in the art departments of the Buffalo Express, the Buffalo Courier and the Buffalo News. He was connected with the first two papers for nine years

each and with the last one for two years.

Besides his excellent collection of sketches on Lincoln, Mr. Johnson is the possessor of a library of ninety rare old books dealing with the various phases of Lincoln's life. He gives a talk of some phase of the Emancipator's life each year before the members of the Illinois club at Pasadena.

Mr. Johnson stated that during his visit in Springfield he noted the lack of enthusiasm Springfield citizens seem to show toward the Lincoln relics in this city. In his visit to Lincoln's home he found very few signatures of Springfield residents, but was able to find many from other cities and even other states and countries. He states also that in his tours abroad that everywhere he goes Lincoln is a well known personage to all.

Among the most remarkable art collections in the world, according to Mr. Johnson, was the collection of over 1,200 marble and plaster statues of present-day sculptors which were exhibited at the American Legion building at San Francisco during the National Sculptor's Exhibit. In this large group of statues by living artists were 12 statues of Lincoln, a larger number than of any other one personage.

During his work in Springfield, Mr. Johnson drew a large crowd of interested spectators who gathered to watch his free-hand sketching. He uses a charcoal pencil and uses no rulers or other instruments.

SPRINGFIELD ILL REC
SUNDAY, JULY 7, 1929.

282 South Marengo Ave.,
Pasadena, Calif.,
Sept. 7th 1935.

Dr. Louis A. Warren.
Fort Wayne, Ind..

Dear Sir:

As a gift I am sending
a pen portrait of Abraham Lincoln
which you may be able to use
by reducing. I thank you for the
very fine Lincoln material you
have and are sending. If you
can use the drawing in any way
you are welcome to do so. Again
I thank you.

Yours very truly.

Lewis F. Johnson.

September 12, 1935

Mr. Lewis D. Johnson
282 S. Marengo Ave.
Pasadena, California

My dear Mr. Johnson:

Will you please accept my very sincere thanks for the excellent pen drawing of Abraham Lincoln which you have presented to our Foundation.

I appreciate more than I can say this excellent reproduction of a photograph presented to the Lincoln National Life Insurance by Robert Lincoln, the son of Abraham Lincoln.

We are pleased to know that you are interested in our Lincoln items and trust they may continue to bring you some pleasure.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Lincoln National Life Foundation

Director

September 12, 1938

Mr. Lewis D. Johnson
283 S. Western Ave.
Pasadena, California

My dear Mr. Johnson:

Will you please accept my very sincere thanks
for the excellent pen drawing of Abraham Lincoln which
you have presented to our Foundation.

I appreciate more than I can say this excellent
reproduction of a photograph presented to the Lincoln
National Life Insurance of Robert Lincoln, the son of
Abraham Lincoln.

We are pleased to know that you are interested
in our Lincoln story and trust they continue to bring
you some pleasure.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Director

Johnny, Lewis &

Dennis 1941

Artists - J

